



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Retail demand was light to fair with optimism noted as first of the month approaches. Food service was light to moderate, best for fast food promotions. Supplies of all sizes were mixed, but generally sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light and selective with regular commitments capable of satisfying needs. Dark meat was in good balance to tight and moving well. Breast items were adequate to fully adequate with tenders better balanced, and wings were at least adequate with limited movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to light, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 74.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 74.25 cents last year on March 31, 2004.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	180.00
BREASTS - B/S	156.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	86.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	95.50
LEG QUARTERS	33.00
WINGS	101.00

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

SOUTHERN REGION Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was mostly light to moderate, but expected to improve as first of the month approaches. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient to handle light trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was fair to moderate. Dark meat was in good balance to tight and moving well aided by export interest. Breast items were readily available, but closer balanced for tenders, and wings were adequate to ample. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST REGION Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light and unaggressive. Offerings of all sizes were adequate to at least adequate for current trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was limited. The market tone was generally steady. In the parts complex, breast items were adequate to fully adequate. Dark meat cuts were sufficient. Wings were readily available and slow to clear.

MIDWEST REGION The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was steady. Offerings were moderate to heavy for a light trade call. Retail demand remained light for the most part with only limited scattered features noted. Food service movement was no better than moderate with the exception of the St. Louis market area which was reporting good activity due to Final Four activities. Floor stocks were in a full range. Sizes were mostly desirable. Parts were receiving limited buyer inquiry as current commitments satisfy trade needs. Supplies of wings were increasing and plentiful, breast cuts adequate and dark meat items were in close balance. The market tone was steady to firm on dark meat items, barely steady to weak on wings and steady to instances barely steady on breast cuts.

WESTERN REGION The market tone was generally steady. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate. Buying activity was moderate overall. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good best for parts and whole body where features in progress. Floor stocks adequate.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 03/26/05	2005	2004
EGGS SET	213,499	211,188
CHICKS PLACED	175,940	172,347
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		+01
		+02

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 213 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 26, 2005. This was up 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 84 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 176 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 26, 2005. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2005 through March 26, 2005 were 2.10 billion, up 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 07-May-05 is estimated at 162.1 million head. This compares to 162.4 million head the previous week and to 161.9 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 159.0 million head and the composite weighted average price was 77.83 cents per pound.

MAR 29 **SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS** MAR 30
 F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	820	134.00-160.00	145-150	147.45
TENDERLOINS	203	150.00-200.00	153-157	157.27
BREAST - LINE RUN	77	90.00-105.00	91-93	93.87
FRONT HALVES	90	71.00-82.00	78-79	78.50
LEGS	62	40.00-52.00	42-43	43.18
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	590	29.00-32.00	30-31	30.37
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	925	31.00-36.00	32-33	32.63
WINGS (WHOLE)	242	69.00-108.00	102-104	98.39
WINGS (CUT)	385	84.00-119.00	-	113.44
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	120	87.00-99.00	-	92.33

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR
 MARCH 29, 2005 -- FOB DOCK

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	901	139.00-155.00	140-145	145.64
TENDERLOINS	138	150.00-200.00	153-158	156.96
BREAST - LINE RUN	77	84.00-105.00	90-93	91.01
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	47	41.00-52.00	43	44.11
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	550	29.00-33.00	30-31	30.60
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,005	31.00-36.00	32-33	32.80
WINGS (WHOLE)	305	69.00-108.00	-	92.70
WINGS (CUT)	460	84.00-117.00	-	112.29
DRUMSTICKS	75	37.00-56.00	-	45.87
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	120	88.00-102.00	-	94.17

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR
 MARCH 30, 2005 -- FOB DOCK

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
50.00 - 57.00	54.44	50.00 - 55.50	52.80	54.24

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was cautious and selective during midweek trading as dealers attempted to gauge market developments. Offerings of breast items ranged adequate to available at times with spot discounting noted. Tenderloins were in good balance to well cleared. Dark meat cuts were sufficient and clearing satisfactorily. Wings were readily available. Retail and distributive movement was limited. The market tone was fully steady on tenders; steady to barely steady on breast items. Wings were barely steady to weak.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	160	157.30	530,300	BREAST - B/S	160	155.92	462,320
TENDERLOINS	155-160	154.17	275,792	TENDERLOINS	155-160	155.11	113,760
BREAST - WITH RIBS	91-92	95.95	103,280	BREAST - WITH RIBS	90-91	97.63	105,920
BREAST - LINE RUN	91	90.68	76,800	BREAST - LINE RUN	90	91.06	122,200
LEGS	44-45	46.04	259,920	LEGS	45-46	46.39	285,360
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	31-32	31.70	366,720	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	31-32	32.45	414,520
DRUMSTICKS	31-32	38.42	145,120	DRUMSTICKS	31-32	37.00	69,000
THIGHS	38-39	46.74	61,320	THIGHS	38-39	47.04	30,280
B/S THIGHS	96-97	94.54	98,640	B/S THIGHS	96-97	96.78	135,920
WINGS (WHOLE)	95-96	102.11	127,240	WINGS (WHOLE)	94-95	97.26	103,240
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.08	13,520	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.45	21,800
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.31	35,760	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	26.89	16,640
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	61.22	26,680	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.05	13,160

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED				ACTUAL				AVG
	(1,000)	ACTUAL (1,000)			(1,000)	AVG WTS			WTS
	03/30	03/29	03/28	03/25	03/28	03/25	03/23	03/21	
Alabama	3,929	3,894	3,754	3,088	5.12	4.66	3,942	5.33	
Arkansas	5,240	5,280	5,159	4,491	5.30	4.75	5,338	5.21	
Delmarva	2,283	2,237	1,288	1,678	5.97	5.61	1,871	5.58	
KY-LA-TN	2,146	2,080	2,012	2,030	5.08	4.74	2,158	4.94	
Mississippi	3,091	3,134	3,182	2,777	5.41	5.20	2,619	5.59	
North Carolina	2,447	2,430	1,895	1,867	6.58	6.09	2,435	6.52	
Texas	2,426	2,379	2,427	2,368	5.41	5.18	2,203	5.19	
Total	21,562	21,434	19,717	18,299	5.44	5.07	20,566	5.45	
Mon-Wed	62,559(A)				63,444(A)				

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 30-Mar-05 is estimated to be 32,259,000 head up 4.53 percent from a week ago and up 7.64 percent from a year ago.
 (Last week 30,861,000, last year 29,968,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	99-107
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	65-73
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY	
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS	
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 105-107
	DRY PACK 105-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 108-111
	DRY PACK 111
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 89-93
	DRY PACK 89-95
DUCKS	180-192

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 02-Apr-05

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	04/02/05 (1)	03/26/05
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
Broiler/fryer	164,514 (2)	153,640
Light hens	1,665	1,683
Heavy hens	1,427	1,320
Total	167,606	156,643

(1)ESTIMATED (2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 02-Apr-05 is 165.4 million head compared to 153.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 164.8 million head or 0.6 million less than estimated available. For the week of 09-Apr-05 the estimated available is 166.0 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 03/28/05	98,778	48,996
AM 03/01/05	88,108	41,709
CHG	10,670	7,287
PCT CHG	12	17

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/28/05	03/21/05	03/29/04	03/28/05	03/21/05	03/29/04
PACIFIC						
COAST	3,317	3,033	6,926	6,388	6,402	3,951
LOS ANGELES	52	66	391	3,535	3,424	2,388

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2005

	RANGE
HENS ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	74-83
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	80-88

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/29/05

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.45	.55	.48	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.50	-	BANTAMS ea.	1.25	2.00	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	3.50	4.75	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.70	1.50	.83	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.30	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.00	1.25	1.15	RABBITS ea.	1.50	3.50	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.75	5.50	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	48						

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 25, 2005

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	71.91	137.36	76.76	16.16	6.06	64.64
High	76.76	145.44	80.80	20.20	12.12	64.64
Mostly	72.72	141.40	78.78	18.18	8.08	64.64

SAN JUAN

Low	70.70	125.24	72.72	16.16	6.06	62.62
High	74.74	137.36	76.76	20.20	12.12	62.62
Mostly	70.70	129.28	74.74	18.18	8.08	62.62

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	69.49	133.32	72.72	20.20	12.12	64.64
High	71.11	141.40	80.80	28.28	14.14	64.64
Mostly	70.70	137.36	76.76	24.24	14.14	64.64

BECERRA

Low	70.70	141.40	76.76	20.20	8.08	64.64
High	72.72	145.44	80.80	24.24	14.14	64.64
Mostly	72.72	143.42	78.78	22.22	10.10	64.64

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally noted as lackluster. Seller offerings were adequate and clearing satisfactorily. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 72 to 84 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the part complex, supplies were adequate to fully adequate. Wings remained readily available.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

**BRANDED
U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	67-87
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	75.93
NO. OF BOXES	4,360

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